

COMMITTEE HEARING 2/25/10

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen

My name is Bill Mackey and I am General Manager for Woods Electric, an electrical contractor for commercial and industrial projects based in Farmington, CT. I have been in the electrical industry since 1980 and I hold an E-1 license.

I have three items of concern regarding the photovoltaic industry

1. The regulations for applying for and receiving Clean Energy funds are cumbersome and confusing. The issue of not being allowed to apply for funds until one becomes a certified PV installer can prevent a company from receiving fund reimbursement for 18 months.
2. I have made numerous attempts to become a provider and installer of PV solutions for industrial and commercial settings. I have continually been refused the ability to buy and install the PV product direct for suppliers. I have been told over and over that there are exclusive vendors in the state, and I must buy through them. I am not sure if this is due to licensing considerations, but as a fully qualified electrical contractor in the state, I feel I am being cut out of business opportunities.
3. The latest figures that I have heard regarding electrical unemployment in the state is 30%. I know that I have reduced my field staff substantially. There are many available E-2 and E-1 licensed people available for this industry that have already been trained for work in the electrical field. We are fully ready, willing and able to do this work, if given the opportunity.

Thank you